

# CHAPTER 8

## *HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION ELEMENT*

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### INTRODUCTION

Cultural resources in Clark County are rooted in a rich and colorful history that dates back thousands of years. The historical record of the County includes the formation of the region's unique physiography, settlement of the region by Native American groups, exploration by European nations, location as headquarters for the Hudson's Bay Company Columbia District trade networks, destination for thousands who took the Oregon Trail, and location as an industrial center (first for pulp and paper, then aluminum and shipbuilding, and now high-tech industries).

The Growth Management Act of 1990 (GMA) requires all local jurisdictions to "Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance." Knowledge of Clark County's history can provide a context in which to understand current growth and development trends, and a sense of continuity and community so valuable to County residents.

This element of the 20-Year Plan includes:

- a summary of existing information about settlement patterns, key events, and historic and archaeological resources which remain in Clark County;
- existing agencies, groups and programs that are involved in historic, archaeological and cultural preservation and identification issues; and,
- goals and policies related to historic, archaeological and historic preservation in Clark County.



Other elements contain goals and policies which may also affect preservation efforts. For example, the Community Design Element identifies historic architectural and development patterns as a key design element which should be recognized and enhanced when new development is proposed in areas with historic resources. Chapter 5, Housing, contains policies relating to the re-use and renovation of existing structures. Chapter 2, Land Use, identifies areas appropriate for urban and rural development and those which should be preserved in open space. Readers of this element should be aware of the related policies and programs contained in other elements. Additionally, a more detailed summary of County history is included in the Resource Document. There are also many articles and books written about the history of the region.

## **BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **History**

The beautiful location and rich natural resources of Clark County have influenced its development history and settlement pattern. The history of the County is important because of the impacts historical settlement patterns have on current and proposed land use policies. From Native American settlements, to scattered European farms, to small farming communities, to mill towns, to regional employment centers, the development pattern of Clark County has mirrored that of the United States as a whole. Transportation and communication first led to the settlement of the region, and improved transportation and communication technology has further tied the region together. The history and cultural resources of the region are discussed in greater depth in the Resource Document.



### **Existing Programs and Policies to Recognize and Protect Historic, Archaeological and Cultural Resources**

There are a number of organizations and public agencies in Clark County which are interested in documenting and preserving Clark County's historic, archaeological and cultural resources. National and state legislation and programs help to frame the programs here in Clark County.

#### **National Programs**

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the creation of the National Register of Historic Places as a means of recognizing sites and structures associated with significant people or events in our nation's history. Sites or structures listed on the National Register are provided protection through various federal funding sources and prevents federal projects from demolishing federally funded sites without careful consideration. Placement on the register is strictly voluntary for the landowner and provides no absolute protection. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service. In 2003, thirty-five (35) properties in Clark County were listed on the National Register with many more being eligible.

#### **Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**

The Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) performs the functions of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) which were established by the National Historic Preservation Act. OAHP maintains records of all historic resource inventories and sites and acts as liaison between local agencies and the federal government. OAHP is also responsible for reviewing proposed federal projects for their potential impact on historic and archaeological resources.

## Local Organizations and Programs

The Clark County Historic Preservation Commission is responsible for the cultural resource inventory, review of proposed restoration/ rehabilitation to identified historic resources, review of nominations to local, state and federal registers of historic places, and implementation of the state special valuation tax incentive program. There are a number of other groups and organizations that participate in the preservation of historic, archaeological and cultural resources at specific sites, for designated areas or for the entire County.

## GOALS AND POLICIES

The Washington Growth Management Act of 1990 identified the following state goal for historic preservation:

- Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance.

The goals and policies in this plan reflect that overall state direction. The Community Framework Plan contains five policies to ensure that the County and its cities develop a coordinated approach to the identification and preservation of historic, archaeological and cultural resources. The goals in this element are intended to further clarify and direct staff efforts toward implementation of the overall state goal for historic preservation and the policies of the Community Framework Plan.

### 8.0 County-Wide Planning Policy

The County and each municipality should identify cultural resources within urban growth areas and the County.

**GOAL:** *Improve identification and evaluation of historic, archaeological and cultural resources.*

#### 8.1 Policies

- 8.1.1 Working with Clark County Historic Preservation Commission and other interested agencies and organizations, the County shall maintain and update the current inventory of historic, archaeological and cultural resources in Clark County.
- 8.1.2 Working with Clark County Historic Preservation Commission, the County shall re-evaluate the criteria used to assess the significance of historic and cultural resources and shall develop guidelines for the evaluation of potential impacts to significant cultural resources from development activity.
- 8.1.3 Review current County criteria regarding significance of sites and compare these to National Register of Historic Places. Work with Clark County Historic Preservation Commission members and interested citizens to prepare a report with recommended amendments. Coordinate with each municipality in the County.

- 8.1.4 Inventory and evaluate non-structural resources, including districts and landscapes that provide unique insights into the history and development of the County.
- 8.1.5 Coordinate County inventory efforts with Native American groups, neighborhood associations, and university or other governmental inventory efforts.
- 8.1.6 Identify grants available for contracting inventory work.

**GOAL:** *Increase recognition of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.*

## **8.2 Policies**

- 8.2.1 Public awareness of cultural resources should be increased through educational and interpretive projects that highlight sites included on the County inventory or those eligible for inclusion in local and/or state heritage registers, or National Registers of Historic Places.
- 8.2.2 County employee awareness should be increased through training about cultural heritage preservation issues, including state and federal penalties for disturbance, destruction or removal of archaeological resources.

**GOAL:** *Protect historic, archaeological and cultural resources through a comprehensive planning approach.*

## **8.3 Policies**

- 8.3.1 Review the County's and its cities' policies for consistency regarding preservation of cultural and historic resources.
- 8.3.2 Integrate historic districts (those identified now and in the future), cultural resource areas and specific historic sites and structures into zoning and planning maps.
- 8.3.3 Revise the zoning ordinance to include provisions to permit the review of individual development, redevelopment and demolition plans to ensure protection and minimize the impacts on cultural, historic and, particularly archaeological resources.
- 8.3.4 Establish a process for the resolution of land use conflicts relating to the preservation of historic, archaeological and cultural resources.
- 8.3.5 Provide assistance to developers, landowners, and the construction trade regarding appropriate re-use and rehabilitation of identified historic sites and buildings.
- 8.3.6 Provide assistance to developers, landowners and others interested in obtaining grants and receiving available tax incentives for re-use and rehabilitation of identified historic sites and buildings.

## STRATEGIES

- Ordinance and procedural changes are needed to implement the above goals, policies. Integration of planning is essential at all levels to assure successful implementation of a preservation program. The following are a range of strategies that may be considered in achieving the goals and policies of this element.
- Train volunteers to participate in a review and update of the current County inventory. Include representatives from all communities and local historic preservation organizations.
- Develop guided and self-guided tours, which highlight cultural resources on the County inventory.
- Install interpretive signs for sites on the County inventory.
- Host educational seminars that will highlight cultural resources on the County inventory or those properties that may be eligible for inclusion.
- Waive or reduce permit and impact fees for re-use or rehabilitation projects that are consistent with surrounding land uses.
- Provide flexibility in the County zoning codes for uses on historical sites that are compatible with surrounding land use. Develop an educational effort oriented towards the general public regarding cultural resources: what they are, where they are, what is their significance and how they can be compatible with other planning goals.
- Develop additional funding sources or minimize costs to supplement current County funding for the preservation of historic, archaeological and cultural resources. Possible funding sources are: research grants, user fees, use of volunteers and penalties for the violations of preservation policies.